

Application No. 10/730329
Amendment dated December 14, 2005
After Final Office Action of November 25, 2005

Docket No.: 013207.0164C5US

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 78 are pending in this application. Applicants have cancelled claims 45, 49 – 51, 57, 61 – 63, 69, and 73 – 75, and has amended claims 1, 14, 27, 46, 52 – 54, 58, 59, 70, 71, and 76 – 78 as recommended by the Examiner.

In a Final Office Action mailed 25 November 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 14 – 16, and 27 – 29 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rousseu et al (US Patent No. 6,889,042) in view of Diekelman (US Patent No. 5,590,395), and claims 4 – 10, 12, 17 – 23, 25, 30 – 36, 38, 51, 61, and 75 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rousseu et al (US Patent No. 6,889,042) in view of Diekelman (US Patent No. 5,590,395) and further in view of Zicker (US Patent No. 6,314,286). Furthermore, the Examiner rejected claims 13, 43 – 45, 47, 26, 39, 55 – 57, 59, 60, 67 – 69, 71, and 72 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rousseu et al (US Patent No. 6,889,042) in view of Zicker (US Patent No. 6,314,286) and further in view of Roux (US Patent No. 6,754,489, and claims 53, 54, 77, and 78 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rousseu et al (US Patent No. 6,889,042) in view of Hogg et al. (US Patent No. 6,430,421).

The Examiner also indicated that claims 40 – 42 were allowable and objected to claims 11, 24, 37, 46, 50, 52, 58, 62, 65, 66, 70, 74, and 76 as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim on which they depend and any intervening claims. Applicants have accepted these claims objected to and has amended them accordingly to render them allowable as indicated by the Examiner. In particular, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of objected to claim 50 and intervening claim 49, with claims 49 and 50 then being canceled. Similarly, independent claim 14 has been amended to include the limitations of objected to claim 62 and intervening claim 61, with claims 61 and 62 then being canceled. Also, independent claim 27 has been amended to include the limitations of objected to claim 74 and intervening claim 73, with claims 74 and 75 then being canceled. In addition, objected to claim 46 has been amended to include the limitations of its independent base claim (claim 1) and intervening claim 45, with claim 45 then being canceled. Similarly, objected to claim 52 has been amended to include the limitations of its independent base claim (claim 1) and intervening claim 51, with claim 51 then being canceled. Objected to claim 58 has been amended to include the limitations of its independent base claim (claim 14) and intervening claim 57, with claim 57 then being canceled. Objected to claim 64 has been amended to include the limitations of its

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independent base claim (claim 14) and intervening claim 64, with claim 64 then being canceled. Objected to claim 70 has been amended to include the limitations of its independent base claim (claim 27) and intervening claim 69, with claim 69 then being canceled. Finally, objected to claim 76 has been amended to include the limitations of its independent base claim (claim 27) and intervening claim 75, with claim 75 then being canceled. In addition, dependent claims 53, 54, 59, 71, 77, and 78 were amended to correct the reference to their parent claim, which changed as a result of these amendments.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance, with claims 1 - 44, 46 - 48, 52 - 56, 58 - 60, 64 - 68, 70 - 72, and 76 - 78 remaining and in condition for allowance. Applicants have paid the fee due with this response. If any additional fees are due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50-1848, under Order No. 013207.0164CSUS from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Respectfully submitted,
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